

General

Title

Occupational health: average amount of workers' compensation benefits paid per covered worker.

Source(s)

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Occupational health indicators: a guide for tracking occupational health conditions and their determinants. Atlanta (GA): Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE); 2016 Mar. 145 p.

Measure Domain

Primary Measure Domain

Related Population Health Measures: Population Use of Services

Secondary Measure Domain

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

Description

This measure is used to assess the average amount of workers' compensation benefits paid per covered worker.

Rationale

State health agencies, which are vested with the legal authority to require disease reporting and collect health data, play a central role in public health surveillance. Whereas public health surveillance was once focused primarily on infectious diseases, it has expanded in recent years to include surveillance of a wide range of health outcomes and their determinants, including chronic diseases, injuries and health behaviors (Halperin & Horan, 1998). National statistics on occupational injuries and illnesses have been collected largely outside of the public health infrastructure and rely almost entirely on data reported by employers. State health agencies that have access to a wide variety of public health data systems have an important role in the surveillance of occupational diseases, injuries and hazards.

Workers' compensation awards are reviewed to establish whether the reported medical condition is work-related. Accepted awards represent known work-related injuries and illnesses, and often more severe cases. The total and average amounts of benefits paid estimate the burden of these events, which can help justify prevention programs and activities.

Evidence for Rationale

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Occupational health indicators: a guide for tracking occupational health conditions and their determinants. Atlanta (GA): Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE); 2016 Mar. 145 p.

Halperin W, Horan JM. Surveillance of injuries. Public Health Rep. 1998 Sep-Oct;113(5):424-6. [PubMed](#)

Primary Health Components

Occupational injuries and illnesses; workers' compensation

Denominator Description

Number of workers with workers' compensation coverage for the same calendar year

Numerator Description

Total amount of workers' compensation benefits paid (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field)

Evidence Supporting the Measure

Type of Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality for the Measure

A formal consensus procedure, involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, public health and organizational sciences

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Additional Information Supporting Need for the Measure

In 2013, \$63.6 billion in workers' compensation total benefits were paid to workers with occupational injuries or illnesses. Employers' costs for workers' compensation were \$88.5 billion in 2013. Costs increased by 13.8 percent in the period 2011 to 2013. The medical payments increased by 10.3 percent to \$31.5 billion and cash benefits increased by 6.2 percent to \$32.0 billion in the period 2009 to 2013 (Sengupta, Baldwin, & Reno, 2015).

Evidence for Additional Information Supporting Need for the Measure

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), National Institute for Occupational Safety and

Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Occupational health indicators: a guide for tracking occupational health conditions and their determinants. Atlanta (GA): Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE); 2016 Mar. 145 p.

Sengupta I, Baldwin M, Reno V. Workers' compensation: benefits, coverage, and costs, 2013. Washington (DC): National Academy of Social Insurance; 2015 Aug.

Extent of Measure Testing

In 1998, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), in association with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), convened the NIOSH-States Occupational Health Surveillance Work Group to make recommendations to NIOSH concerning State-based surveillance activities for the coming decade.

The Work Group recognized the need to pilot test 19 indicators to assess the feasibility of widespread implementation and to develop specific guidance on how to compute the proposed measures. In summer 2002, the five "Core" states with NIOSH Cooperative Agreements to conduct "Core Occupational Health Surveillance" (California, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Washington) agreed to pilot test the indicators and to create user-friendly "how-to" guides so that other states could calculate the indicators.

Subsequent to the initial pilot testing by the five "Core" states, eight additional states (Connecticut, Maine, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon and Wisconsin) pilot tested the "how-to" guides. Feedback from these additional states was incorporated into the development of the final "how-to" guides for 19 indicators in November 2004.

Procedures to review, approve, and implement new indicators were developed by the Work Group. In 2013, a fourteenth health effect indicator (*Asthma among Adults Caused or Made Worse by Work*) was developed and pilot tested. The Work Group voted to adopt this as the twenty-first indicator. In 2014, a fifteenth health effect indicator (*Work-Related Severe Traumatic Injury Hospitalizations*) was developed and pilot tested. The Work Group voted to adopt this as the twenty-second indicator.

Evidence for Extent of Measure Testing

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Occupational health indicators: a guide for tracking occupational health conditions and their determinants. Atlanta (GA): Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE); 2016 Mar. 145 p.

State of Use of the Measure

State of Use

Current routine use

Current Use

not defined yet

Application of the Measure in its Current Use

Measurement Setting

Measurement Setting

National Public Health Programs

State/Provincial Public Health Programs

Professionals Involved in Delivery of Health Services

not defined yet

Least Aggregated Level of Services Delivery Addressed

State/Provincial

Statement of Acceptable Minimum Sample Size

Does not apply to this measure

Target Population Age

Unspecified

Target Population Gender

Either male or female

National Framework for Public Health Quality

Public Health Aims for Quality

Population-centered

Risk Reducing

Transparency

Vigilant

National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care

National Quality Strategy Priority

Institute of Medicine (IOM) National Health Care Quality Report Categories

IOM Care Need

Not within an IOM Care Need

IOM Domain

Not within an IOM Domain

Data Collection for the Measure

Case Finding Period

The calendar year

Denominator Sampling Frame

Geographically defined

Denominator (Index) Event or Characteristic

Geographic Location

Denominator Time Window

not defined yet

Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

Number of workers with workers' compensation coverage for the same calendar year

Exclusions

Unspecified

Exclusions/Exceptions

not defined yet

Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

Total amount of workers' compensation benefits paid

Note: Refer to the "How-To Guide – Indicator #19" section of the original measure documentation for instructions to calculate the average amount of workers' compensation paid per covered worker.

Exclusions

Unspecified

Numerator Search Strategy

Fixed time period or point in time

Data Source

Other

Type of Health State

Does not apply to this measure

Instruments Used and/or Associated with the Measure

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

Measure Specifies Disaggregation

Does not apply to this measure

Scoring

Mean/Median

Interpretation of Score

Does not apply to this measure (i.e., there is no pre-defined preference for the measure score)

Allowance for Patient or Population Factors

not defined yet

Description of Allowance for Patient or Population Factors

Other Available Data: National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) tables with state-specific data have included: Number of Workers Covered by Workers' Compensation and Total Covered Wages Workers' Compensation Benefits by Type of Insurer and Medical Benefits.

Recommendations: NASI also provides the employers' costs for workers' compensation. State workers' compensation system and state employment data may provide additional information about incidence and costs that would increase the usefulness of these data for prevention efforts. States may supply industry- and occupation-specific counts, costs and rates of accepted workers' compensation claims. Age and gender can also be used to better define the burden of occupational injuries/illnesses. Many states report data collected for the subset of accepted time-loss claims—those involving days away from work—which are likely to have the highest costs to and affects upon workers and employers.

Standard of Comparison

not defined yet

Identifying Information

Original Title

19.2 Average amount of workers' compensation benefits paid per covered worker.

Measure Collection Name

Occupational Health Indicators

Measure Set Name

Socioeconomic Impact of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

Submitter

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists - Professional Association

Developer

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Federal Government Agency [U.S.]

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists - Professional Association

Funding Source(s)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)–National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Award 2-R01 OH010094-05: Enhancing State-Based Occupational Health Surveillance Capacity

Composition of the Group that Developed the Measure

Original Work Group Members: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)–Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Occupational Health Surveillance Work Group

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Robert Castellan, NIOSH
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Robert Harrison, California Department of Health Services
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Kim Lim, Maine Department of Labor
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Current Occupational Health Indicator (OHI) and Work Group Leads

Marija Borjan, *Co-chair* (State Representative from New Jersey)
Tristan Victoroff, *Co-chair* (NIOSH Representative)
Patricia Schleiff, *Co-chair* (NIOSH Representative)
Amy Patel, *Secretary* (CSTE)
Svetla Slavova, *OHI Lead* (State Representative from Kentucky)

Financial Disclosures/Other Potential Conflicts of Interest

None

Adaptation

This measure was not adapted from another source.

Date of Most Current Version in NQMC

2016 Mar

Measure Maintenance

Annually

Date of Next Anticipated Revision

Unspecified

Measure Status

This is the current release of the measure.

This measure updates a previous version: Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC). Occupational health indicators: a guide for tracking occupational health conditions and their determinants. Atlanta (GA): Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists; 2014 Mar. 116 p.

Measure Availability

Source available from the [Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists \(CSTE\) Web site](#)

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For more information, contact CSTE at 2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 250, Atlanta, GA 30341; Phone: 770-458-3811; Fax: 770-458-8516; Web site: <https://cste.site-ym.com/> .

NQMC Status

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on January 19, 2015. This NQMC summary was verified by the measure developer on February 25, 2015.

This NQMC summary was updated by ECRI Institute on September 17, 2015. This NQMC summary was verified by the measure developer on October 19, 2015.

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Production

Source(s)

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Occupational health indicators: a guide for tracking occupational health conditions and their determinants. Atlanta (GA): Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE); 2016 Mar. 145 p.

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